

# Italians Take Islands Above Montello Plateau Capture Many Prisoners

Indications Are Fighting is of Serious Nature—Progress of Attack Will Divide Austrian Armies—Probable British Are in Quesnoy—American Forces Have Hill 360—Enemy Loss in Effectives 50,000.

(By The Associated Press)

London, Oct. 26.—The Turkish minister to Switzerland has handed the British and French ministers to that country an offer virtually amounting to surrender, according to a Berne despatch to the Daily Mail.

In the last four days the Germans have lost nearly 15,000 prisoners and 200 guns according to unofficial estimates in Paris. The enemy losses in effectiveness are declared to have been not less than 50,000.

While the British, French and Americans slowly are breaking through the stubborn German defense along the line south of Valenciennes the attention of the Allied world is directed toward the front where Gen. Diaz apparently has started an offensive.

Operations on a large scale appear to have begun on Thursday when the Austrian official statement reported heavy artillery fire from the Brenta river to the Montello plateau. It was reported yesterday that Italian, British and French forces attacked between the Brenta and Piave rivers and advanced over rough country for a considerable distance. At the same time, the Allies moved ahead and captured islands in the Piave above the Montello plateau.

This stroke was aimed at the line along the Piave until it reaches the mountains and then turns west. If the Allied attack makes material progress the Austrian armies on the lowlands near the sea and those holding the front in the mountains may be divided. The number of prisoners taken would seem to indicate fighting of a serious nature. It is too early to determine whether General Diaz has really begun an offensive or is merely directing an operation which is in the nature of a diversion.

British troops are continuing their blow at the German line south of the bend of the Scheldt above Valenciennes. Progress there has been comparatively slow, but it would appear that the railroad between Quesnoy and Valenciennes has been crossed and that the British are in the outskirts of Quesnoy. There is an apparent effort on the part of Field Marshal Haig to avoid a direct assault against the Mormal forest immediately south, where the Germans are solidly entrenched and have countless machine guns and light guns in position. Northeast of Valenciennes the British and French are advancing toward the Scheldt.

The French on the Serre-Oise front have continued their attack on the northern side of the angle line. They have gained at important points, but the Germans are holding their front very strongly.

Southwest of Damvillers and A sector, American forces have captured Hill 360, a height which is important for observation purposes and which was strongly defended by the Germans. Near Grand Pre the Americans have forged still farther ahead and appear to be forming quite a large pocket in the German lines in the eastern side of the Argonne forest. American heavy artillery has been pounding German concentration points during the past two days.

British divisions in Mesopotamia are fighting against the Turks. It may be expected that an effort to form a junction between the forces along the Tigris and those operating north and east of Damascus.

French troops facing the southern bulwark of the German defenses in France continue to make important gains in the enemy positions along the Serre and eastward, while the British hammer at the pivotal point around Valenciennes.

Southwest of Marle the French have captured Mortiers on the Serre, while farther east in the region south-east of Montcornet—General Patton's men have smashed through the German lines on a front of four and one-half miles to a depth of two miles at certain points. The German defenses here were formidable, having been prepared in 1917 and continuously reinforced.

In the encircling of Valenciennes the British have gained new successes north and south of the town. On the edge of the Mormal forest, on the south, Field Marshal Haig's men have taken Englefontaine and Mt. Carmel.

## WILSON'S NOTE FAVORABLY RECEIVED; LONDON PAPERS COMMENT SHOWS SPIRIT

London, Oct. 25.—With but one exception editorial comment on President Wilson's note to Germany is favorably received. Standing out in the Daily News, which says:

"The imperial chancellor's note left matters in suspense, but the President takes them where they should be. The sincerity of the German people's desire for peace is today brought to the final test. If the Germans accept the President's terms, there is no reason why fighting should not end in less than a week. Mr. Wilson, beyond question, speaks for every allied nation."

The military adverse criticism of Mr. Wilson's note appears in the Graphic, which complains of the length of the document, adding:

"At such a crisis bandying words suggests a lack of dignity and creates a loophole for further diplomatic wriggling."

The Graphic, nevertheless, prints a cartoon of John Bull holding a copy of the note and saying to President Wilson: "That's the kind of stuff to give 'em, sir."

272 persons were washed ashore at Iwami on the Sea of Japan. They were those of the inhabitants of the coastal districts of Tatooy prefecture.

About 170 persons lost their lives in other places. Railroad, telegraphic and telephone communication was interrupted or destroyed. Scores of railroad bridges were carried away. In the prefecture of Tattori about 50 men were drowned.

In Hyogo prefecture a landslide occurred on a mountain side and over 20 houses were buried. Seven persons belonging to a family of the head man of one of the villages were burned to death in a fire which followed a collapse of the house.

# Connecticut's Own Division March Locates West Of Meuse

## WAR AIMS HURT BY SHIPING OF POLITICIANS

Attacks on Administration Hinder Program for Carrying on the Government.

## PATRIOTISM CALLS FOR FULL SUPPORT

H.S. Cummings Gives Opinion of Actions of Opponents of the Government.

Washington, Oct. 26.—"The resolute spirit of the people at large requires a wholehearted support of the Administration."

The foregoing is the keynote of a strong article in the September issue of The Forum. Written by Homer S. Cummings, vice-chairman of the Democratic National Committee, this article tends to put the full Congressional campaign on a patriotic, rather than a political basis.

Mr. Cummings says, in part: "There is a sound basis for the belief that the Democratic party will be successful in the coming Congressional campaign. Events seem to have made such a result inevitable. The leaders of the Republican party, being quite aware of this situation, have sought to forestall it by urging that it would be better for the country to elect a Congress adverse to the Administration, than to choose one in harmony with it."

"The mere fact that such a suggestion is seriously made is an indication of extreme poverty of invention and a proof of the hopeless plight in which the Republican party finds itself."

## War Chief Business.

"Manifestly the overwhelming business of America is to win the war. This is a purpose of which all other considerations are subordinate. The outstanding fact is that President Wilson is not only President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, but he is the leader of his party, and is at the head of an administration which is actually conducting the war, and conducting it with success. The fundamental difficulty which the Republican campaign grows out of the attempt to justify a distinction between support of the President and support of the party."

"To persuade a majority of the American people that it is wise to make such a distinction will require more plausibility than the Republican leaders possess. It is a program which counsels domestic and political confusion during a period of war. It is pregnant with opportunities for political sniping and can serve no purpose of patriotism. The resolute spirit of the people at large requires a wholehearted support of the Administration. Any attempt to equivocate or to draw fine distinctions can lead only to the discomfiture of the person or the party making the attempt. The great mass of people believe in the President and propose to stand by him."

"Surely the Administration would be in a better position to devote its energies to the problems of the war if supported, in Congress, by those who have confidence in it, rather than by those who, openly or covertly, seek to take advantage of the situation. Our President has become the leading figure in the affairs of the world, his influence is never greater than it is today, his words carry into every quarter of the globe and the statements of the allied governments have accepted his leadership. It would be a sorry commentary upon popular government if the results in November should impair in the least degree the influence of that illustrious and commanding figure."

The Processes of Peace

"Neither has the Republican party, as an organization, in any wise, purged itself of its ancient vices or made itself a trustworthy vehicle for the expression of the best thought of the American people. It is still narrow, partisan and provincial. It has neither fully grasped the significance of the democratic ideal nor evinced any adequate appreciation of the greatness or destiny of America. There is, today, a general recognition that the great purpose to which our people are committed has been carried forward with expedition and success. To readjust the processes of peace so as to serve the activities of war has been an undertaking requiring leadership of unexampled skill. So striking has been the response of the people, so free have our public affairs been from any suggestion of scandal or improper influence, that it scarcely lies in the mouth of those who conducted the Spanish-American war to indulge in the luxury of criticism."

## Who Will Be Leaders?

"Our purposes are not limited by the war. What we have accomplished thus far, both in the matter of war preparation and in domestic reform, serve as an indication of the spirit with which we will undertake the great problems of reconstruction which will follow the cessation of hostilities. Vocational training, already undertaken, must be further developed, having in mind not only the training of the youth of the country, but also with a view to the needs of those who have been injured or disabled in the war. We shall be confronted with the question of employment of the unemployed. It is highly essential that there shall be established a basis which shall make the recurring conflicts between capital and labor no longer a disturbing element in the life of America. The ultimate status of the public utilities and of special war industries taken over by

Bridgeport Boys in Regiments Comprising the Seventy-Sixth.

## CLOSE BEHIND FIGHTING LINES

Huns Driven From Thousands of Square Miles of Territory Since July 18.

Washington, Oct. 26.—Summarizing the situation on the western battle front today, General March said the Germans have evacuated or been driven out of several thousand square miles of Belgium and French territory since July 18; that 400 square miles have been freed during the past week and that all the coal fields in northern France have been recovered except for a five mile tract where the Allied advance now is being pressed near the Belgian border.

General March announced that five American corps and divisions commanders who have been actively engaged in France are returning home on the recommendation of General Pershing to take important assignments here. They are Major General Omar Bundy, who organized and commanded the Fifty Army Corps and who will go to command Camp Pike, Arkansas; Clarence R. Edwards, who took to France the 26th (New England National Guard), and who will be assigned to command Camp Lee, Virginia; John E. McMahon, who commanded the fifth (Regular) division and will be assigned to Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky; George H. Cameron, who commanded first the Fourth (Regular) division and later the second army corps, new assignment not announced, and Beaumont B. Buck, recently awarded the distinguished service cross for gallantry in action at which time he was wounded, new assignment not announced.

Major General George B. Duncan, who commanded the 7th (New York National Guard) division, will not be returned to the United States as previously announced. General March said General Duncan has recovered his health and will be returned to active duty.

In making these announcements General March laid great stress upon the fact that all of the officers ordered home had done splendid work at the front and proved their ability on every occasion. He indicated they were all men of more advanced years upon whom the strain of active campaigning bore heavily.

Reverting to the military situation General March pointed out that the Franco-American lines from the Meuse to the Alsace were parallel to the great railway line north of the Belgian frontier and constituted a threat against that line throughout its entire length.

Among American divisions, he said, the 7th (Pennsylvania, Maryland and D. C.), 8th (Virginia, W. Va.), 32nd (Ill.) and 82nd as being east of the Meuse. West of the Meuse are the 16th (New England and New York), 25th (New York, New Jersey and Delaware), 7th (New York City and vicinity), 32nd (Michigan and Wisconsin), and the 88th regiment of Regular Infantry.

Identification units with the British east of Cambrai, General March said, the 16th Infantry, 16th and 108th machine gun battalions, The 40th (California, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado), and 33rd (Ohio and West Pennsylvania) divisions, General March said, are depot divisions and have not been in action, while the 8th (Kentucky, Indiana and Southern Illinois) division now is arriving in France.

## DEATH OF MRS. FLAGG

Washington, Oct. 26.—Mrs. Ella Flagg Young of Chicago, chairman of the National Woman's Liberty Loan committee, died here today, of pneumonia, following a short illness from influenza.

## CONDITION OF BANKS.

New York, Oct. 26.—The actual condition of clearing house banks and trust companies for the week shows that they held \$133,777,710 reserve in excess of legal requirements. This is an increase of \$104,154,550 from last week.

The government during the war period must be fixed and their relation to the life of our people must be determined. "Foreign trade must be developed and the methods of taxation must come under the closest scrutiny. All the activities of our country must be freshened and renewed after this period of sacrifice and stress. It must be a stimulated, not an exploited development. The best thought of America must be concentrated on this great business so that the future may afford an increasingly better lot for the generations yet unborn. This is the task to which America must address herself in the days of peace following this period of war. It is impossible that this great development can properly be conducted except under the most disinterested and intelligent leadership."

"To whom will the country look for that leadership? Will it turn back to the discordant elements of the Republican party and to discredited and stationary statesmen who seek to reap the process of antiquity or will the American people follow in the path blazed by our great President and continue a purpose which has already brought us immeasurable advantage and which has so signally reaffirmed our faith in the democratic form of government? There can be but one sane answer to this question."

## FOUR DIVORCES ARE GRANTED BY JUDGE HAINES

Saturday, Oct. 26  
Judge Frank D. Haines in the superior court yesterday granted four divorces after hearing the stories of the complainants. None were contested.

Frank Kantor of Newark was divorced from Susanna Kantor after the husband testified his wife left him on the day of the wedding ceremony and was living in Newark under the name of Mrs. Joseph Sos. The constable who served the writ testified to the same effect. They were married in 1912, and the wife immediately left her husband.

Frances A. Biddiscombe of Norwalk was granted a decree from Burry Biddiscombe, now of parts unknown, on the ground of desertion. They were married in 1891, and desertion occurred in 1905. Mrs. Biddiscombe is matron of the town farm of Norwalk. She believed her husband left with another woman but was not certain.

Frank M. Nichols of Westport was divorced from Christobel O. Nichols at a second hearing. Nichols alleged his wife was too friendly with Rev. J. Hopkins Brown, a clergyman formerly stationed in Wilton. Nichols left his wife because she would not come to live with him in Westport. Testimony was introduced to show that Mrs. Nichols refused to live with her husband in Westport.

Susane D. Blecker, a pretty 22-year old student of a Stamford business college, was granted a decree from Frederick Blecher on charges of cruelty. Mrs. Blecher told the court she met Blecher in Berlin, where they were married in 1913. She said one night while she was visiting his home he refused to allow her to leave unless she married him. She consented, but the cruelty began almost immediately after marriage, and she told of beatings he gave her, one because he accused her of trying to hide her wedding ring. Later they went to live in Hamburg, and in 1914 Mrs. Blecher came to America. Her maiden name was Susane Pederson.

## FOREIGN TRADE FOR SEPTEMBER AT NEW LEVEL

For the sixth time during the present year the value of the imports of merchandise for the current month has exceeded those for the corresponding month of any previous year.

Imports for September were \$262,000,000, an increase of nearly \$26,000,000 over September, 1917, but a decrease of \$10,000,000 from August of this year. For the nine months ending September, 1918, the imports were \$2,322,000,000, an increase of \$400,000,000 over the corresponding period of 1917.

Exports for September amounted to \$550,000,000, an increase of nearly \$100,000,000 over September, 1917, and \$20,000,000 over August, 1918. Exports for the nine months were \$4,561,000,000 a slight decrease as compared with last year, but an increase of \$610,000,000 over the corresponding period of two years ago.

Imports of gold were \$2,600,000 during September and \$56,500,000 for the nine months. Exports of gold were \$2,280,000 and \$34,200,000 for the two periods respectively. Imports of silver were \$7,170,000 for September and nearly \$55,000,000 for the nine months, while exports of silver amounted to \$10,300,000 and \$165,000,000, respectively.

## STAMFORD FIRE RUINS BIG PLANT LOSS \$100,000

Stamford, Conn., Oct. 26.—Fire destroyed the waterworks mills on the harbor front, owned by Fred R. Gillespie, today. The loss is given at \$100,000 and is mostly through ruin of heavy machinery used to grind barytes, minerals and other ingredients used by chemists and builders. The cause of the fire is undetermined. In September of last year there was a fire in the plant which did \$75,000 damage.

Today's fire was in the power plant which was entirely lost and in a warehouse which was saved in part. The area through which the fire swept was about two acres, and firemen from Springfield and Sound Beach were called as many of the Stamford firemen are ill.

The power plant of the Stamford Gas and Electric Light company was endangered for a time and fire went into the immense coal pile. This was probably out after a forenoon's work. The loss is covered by insurance.

## ARREST BANK THIEF

New York, Oct. 26.—Frederick B. Frank, 18, was arrested here today and held as a fugitive from justice from Kansas City where he was employed by the stock yards national bank. The police stated that Frank was wanted in Kansas City for the theft from the bank of \$15,000 worth of liberty bonds and \$10,000 in cash. They say that when arrested he wore a belt containing \$2,500. A woman who said she was Estelle Lerch, widow of Lockport, N. Y., who was with Frank, was detained by the police.

# Germany Will Restore Alsace-Lorraine; Will Fulfill Wilson's Terms

In Address to Reichstag, Solf, Foreign Secretary, Says His Country Will Loyal and in Sense of Complete Justice Fulfill Program at All Points—Denies Depredations in Tournai and Valenciennes.

Amsterdam, Oct. 26.—"As for Alsace-Lorraine, it is at once clear that, as these territories were expressly mentioned among President Wilson's fourteen points, we agree to regulation of these questions," said Dr. W. S. Solf, German foreign secretary, in addressing the Reichstag on Thursday. (In address referred to President Wilson said "The wrong done to France by Prussian in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted.")

"Moreover, having accepted President Wilson's program as the basis of the entire peace work," Dr. Solf continued, "we will loyally and in the sense of complete justice and fairness fulfill the program in all directions and at all points."

Speaking in the Reichstag on Thursday, Dr. W. S. Solf, foreign secretary said Spanish Minister Villalobar, representing British and Belgian citizens and Commissioner van Bree of the Belgian relief organization, visited Tournai, Valenciennes and Denain on Oct. 18, and reported that the German military authorities had done everything in their power to alleviate the condition of fugitives and residents in bombarded towns.

Dr. Solf also said it had been reported to him that German authorities had tried to protect the people of those cities against plundering, and that efforts had been made to safeguard food supplies and save art treasures. Only men of military age had been removed forcibly Dr. Solf asserted and even then exceptions had been made in the cases of physicians, clergymen, firemen, policemen and those employed in supplying food.

Referring questions asked on the previous day, the foreign secretary said the government emphatically repudiated any doubt of its intention honestly to carry out the principles laid down by President Wilson. He said:

"Having in reply to the President taken its stand on his messages, the government is resolved to act accordingly."

## DEPUTIES VOICE SHARP CRITICISM OF MILITARY POLICY IN REICHSTAG

New York, Oct. 25.—German newspapers received here show that sharp criticism of the German military policy was voiced in debate during a sitting of the main committee of the Reichstag late in September. Deputy Adolph Groeber, of the Center party; Philipp Schiedemann, the socialist without portfolio in Prince Maximilian's government; Deputy Fischbeck, of the People's progressive party, and Dr. Gustav Stresemann of the National Liberty party, were the critics. The keynote of their remarks was that the military party relegates the people to the rear.

According to the Vorwaerts, of September 26, the address of Herr Groeber was the greatest surprise of the day. In the past he has been a strong supporter of the military forces. During the debate he turned upon Chancellor von Hertling and also General von Stein, Prussian war minister, accusing the latter of having forbidden meetings in favor of the peace resolution passed by the Reichstag in July, 1917.

Philipp Schiedemann was unsparing in his criticism of conditions which have arisen during recent months.

He said in part: "The last year has been the worst ever lived by the German people. It was believed that following the conclusion of peace in the east, a military superiority had been created in

the west. In that we have been deceived.

It has not been possible as a military thought to crush the enemy. We will, on the contrary be compelled to do our utmost in avoiding being crushed ourselves.

"Vice Chancellor von Payer endeavored, in his speech at Stuttgart to justify Germany's policy in the east. He even tried to harmonize his address with remarks recently made by Dr. W. S. Solf, the secretary of State for Colonies. This was a difficult undertaking, for Dr. Solf probably would have spoken quite differently had he been acquainted with the treaties supplementary to the Brest-Litovsk convention. It is very characteristic of the German government."

According to the Vorwaerts the attitude of the German government relative to the first Austrian peace note caused surprise in Berlin. "There is a cleft in the alliance," the newspaper says.

Civil authorities are overruled by the military on many occasions, according to the report of the debate in the main committee. Herr Schiedemann said that "at the order of the military some police porter forbids a deputy to discuss a question which today engrosses the entire attention of the German people."

It is pointed out that he referred to franchise reform. Herr Schiedemann said that he had results of making both ends meet and worse."

## CROATIAN SOLDIERY REVOLTS TAKE FIUME; DESTROY RAILROAD

Basel, Oct. 25.—It was announced in the lower chamber of the Hungarian parliament yesterday that the Croatian soldiers of the 79th regiment at Fiume had revolted, seized the city and destroyed the railroad there. Count Apponyi, Count Ambrassy and the opposition deputies thereupon demanded the resignation of the ministry, according to Buda Pest advices received here.

Dr. Wekerle, the premier, declared that, in view of the increasing difficulties of the situation he would propose to the king a coalition ministry.

W. Basel, Thursday, Oct. 24.—At a conference of the party leaders of the Austrian Lower House, held recently, Stransky, one of the Czech chiefs, said that all negotiations between the Austrian government and the Czechoslovak government must be carried on with the Paris organization. Declaring he was speaking on behalf of the Czech union, he said the Czech deputies did not consider themselves qualified to open negotiations with the Austrian government or with other nationalities in the country, according to Vienna advices received here.

Jugo Slavs made a similar declaration, it is said.

The Vienna correspondent of the Frankfurt Gazette was quoted on Wednesday by that newspaper as saying Austria is not disposed to enter into negotiations with the Czechoslovak organization at Paris, but would deal only with those in Austria, one of the Czech chiefs, said.

## AMERICAN AVIATORS BRING DOWN 12 AIRCRAFT; RECEIVE CROSSES

Washington, Oct. 26.—Eleven enemy airplanes and one balloon were brought down by American aviators brigaded with the British from Sept. 9 to Sept. 22, the War Department was informed today through a Royal Flying Corps communiqué. British distinguished service crosses were awarded to Lieutenants G. A. Vaughan, Brooklyn; T. J. Herbert, Cleveland; M. L. Campbell, Wakeman, Ohio; L. A. Hamilton, Pittsfield, Mass.; and J. A. Keating, Chicago.

Special mention is made in the communiqué of the bravery of Lieut. Vaughan who, while on offensive patrol, was engaged by about fifteen airplanes, one of which he dived on and shot down in flames. He then attacked another which was seen to fall after he followed it down to 2,000 feet.

Other lieutenants mentioned as having brought down enemy planes included W. W. Lauer, Pittsburgh, and E. W. Springs, Lancaster, Pa.

WANT ADS. IN THE TIMES ONE CENT A WORD